

Capsule Summary

Survey #: AA 812

John E. Washington House
1325 Douglass Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland

c. 1921

Private Residence

The John E. Washington House is a unique piece of architecture in the historic black town of Highland Beach. It is a large, irregularly shaped cottage with octagonal bays and conical roofs. The house is atypical in this community and contributes to the overall design of the town by establishing a standard for architectural quality in this experimental black development.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John E. Washington House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1325 Douglass Avenue

1

CITY, TOWN

Highland Beach

VICINITY OF

Annapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

Anne Arundel COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Sylvia Moss Belton

Telephone #: 202-291-8270

STREET & NUMBER

7530 16th Street NW

CITY, TOWN

Washington, DC

VICINITY OF

20012

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel County

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 1711
Folio #: 525

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AA-812

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John E. Washington House is irregularly shaped and illustrates a mixture of Romanesque Revival and octagonal influences. There are three primary views and the undulating pattern of the facade is quite inconsistent with the rectilinear and planar conception of the other dominant cottages in the community. The cottage is woodframe and the exterior walls are finished with shingle. The central portion of the house is covered with a modified pyramidal roof and an additional wing resembles an octagonal bay with a dormical roof. The house was constructed in c. 1921-1923 when John E. Washington purchased the property from Haley G. Douglass.

The house is located in Highland Beach in the block that is bounded by Douglass Avenue in the north, Westover Lane to the east, Chesapeake Avenue (Venice Beach) to the south and Walnut Avenue towards the east. It lies approximately ten miles southeast of Annapolis where the entire community is oriented towards the Chesapeake Bay. The lot is covered with dense vegetation and large trees although a substantial amount of area has been cleared and seeded for grass in this block.

The John E. Washington House is a large, ranch type structure. It is only one storey high and consumes almost the entire width of the lot. It currently exhibits a low stone foundation. The north view of the house exhibits an enclosed porch, an octagonal bay extension, a partially enclosed entrance way and a second, but smaller octagonal room. The north facade is about five bays wide. The enclosed porch is entered up a flight of steps and through a screen door. The shed roof of the enclosure is supported by posts that have been finished with shingle siding. The door is a rectangular screen with four geometrically proportioned panels. Stationary screening also flanks the opening to this porch.

The octagonal bay on the eastern section of the north view, is large and impressive. It houses six windows which are double hung with six lights over six lights and a contrasting, green trim. The partially enclosed entranceway is a porch which supports a shed roof which extends from the main house. The supports are also finished with shingle and trimmed with contrasting vertical board. The doorway is composed of a set of twin doors with sixteen or twenty lights each. (These doors are enclosed behind a set of aluminum storm doors.) The entire opening is surrounded by a cornice which is decorated with compound pilasters and architrave trim.

The arched windows in the western part of the north view are double hung with a single pane and trim painted the contrasting green exhibited elsewhere.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1920 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Please see "Highland Beach" Survey Form.

Highland Beach, Maryland is a historic black town that was founded by the son of Frederick Douglass. The town was conceived by Haley R. Douglass in the late nineteenth century to be a resort community for prominent blacks. Highland Beach is a unique existing reminder of town planning and architectural history as it relates to vernacular and high style design as exhibited by black people. Most of the architecture in Highland Beach is located on the original sites and building expansions were performed within a ten to fifteen year time frame. This provides us with a concise history of design, space planning, and architecture in a homogeneous, extant community.

All of the cottages that were constructed prior to 1930 are important elements related to town planning and design. It is important that these houses retain their originality in terms of plan design, lot orientation, interior decoration, and architectural aesthetics in order to preserve the concept of space and the dynamics of community development in this historic black town.

The John E. Washington House is a fantastic and exciting piece of architecture. Within the context of this community it is a statement of individuality and independence. It was once the home of the most prolific educators, humanitarians and leaders in black culture the first quarter of the twentieth century. The house is suitable for further study and preservation as a critical element in the documentation of the material culture of African Americans.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AA-812

Please see "Highland Beach" Survey Form

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 5, Lots 13, 14
Highland Beach, Maryland

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Collins Turner

April, 1982

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Morgan State University

301-444-3225

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Built Environment Studies

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Baltimore, Maryland

21239

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Devanghn Belton
1325 Douglas ave

13+14 (5)

AA 812

Charles R. Douglass 1920

To WILL

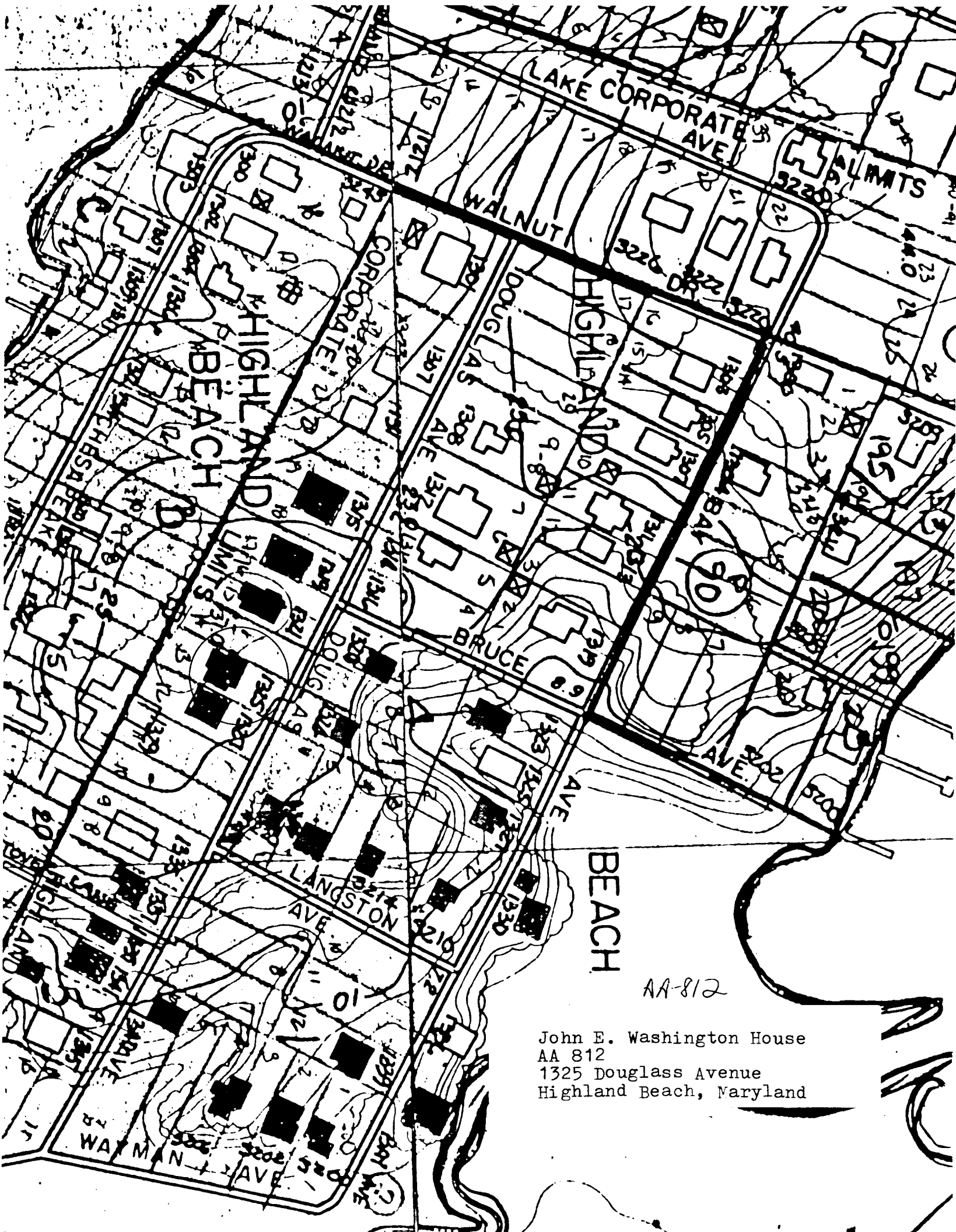
Haley G. Douglass

To Deed 11/3/23 WNW 81 61

John E. Washington

To

Devanghn Belton Doris T. ~~Mass~~



BEACH

AA-812

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General View

Fern Eisner, photogrpaher
March, 1982